

Do I see five hands? I do. Those in favor of ceasing debate please vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Johnson, would you care to close on your motion.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I know the reason why I get so exercised about this issue. I have a very deep felt belief that this country as a country is mortgaging the future of my children and your children to take care of the elderly. And I regard the full funding of an early retirement package for school teachers as just another example as to how this country mortgages the future for my children and your children as well as myself to take care of the elderly. A year ago the New Republic, a wonderfully liberal rag that I read with a great deal of fidelity, had a piece entitled The Next Tax Reform, and it talked very poignantly about how we are funding social security for the elderly which the elderly never had to pay for, which they never had to fund. And they are talking about the regressive social security tax that exists to take care of the elderly. And then it notes, and I want you, if you walk away from this debate this morning with one thing in mind, remember this. The average income per capita of the elderly is 15 percent higher than that of the general population. The average income of the elderly is 15 percent higher than that of the general population. Now, who do you suppose is going to pay for the saintly school teacher that Senator Chizek and Senator Remmers memorializes to retire at full ride at age 60? Is it going to be the saintly school teacher? No. It is going to be the young school teacher, my children and your children who go on to the system and are now contributing 5.4 percent of their wages to funding the older person's retirement instead of being able to put some of that money into buying a house or developing and supporting their family, and it is also going to be the ordinary taxpayers, through their property taxes and, of course, they don't have homestead exemptions applicable to them because of below the age 65. They are going to pay to fund for a person being able to retire fully at age 60. It is a part, and this is part of that inexorable drip, drip, drip, drip, drip of the water torture that continues as we pay for heavy voting older people at the expense of future generations and it is not adequate. It is not adequate for you to get up here and to say, but these teachers are molding the minds of those future